



PERMITTING DECISION SUMMARY

Flock-4e

Planet Labs Inc.

1. Planet Labs Inc (Planet) is a satellite company with their headquarters based in San Francisco, California. They are a private Earth imaging company.
2. Flock-4e is a series of 14 3U CubeSats. They are being launched to replenish and advance Planet's satellite technology and performance. The Dove satellite constellation is currently the largest in orbit.
3. Planet's satellite constellation captures images from around the Earth and they provide this imagery to their customers.
4. Payloads are permitted in line with the [Outer Space and High-altitude Activities Act 2017](#) (OSHAA) and the [Outer Space and High-altitude Activities \(Licences and Permits\) Regulations 2017](#).
5. Each payload has been approved by the Minister for Economic Development, on advice from officials across agencies. When approving payloads, the Minister needs to be satisfied that:
 - a. The applicant has taken and will continue to take all reasonable steps to safely manage the operation of the payload;
 - b. The proposed operation of the payload is consistent with New Zealand's international obligations; and
 - c. The applicant has an orbital debris mitigation plan that meets prescribed requirements.
 - d. Despite being satisfied of these matters, the Minister may nevertheless decline a permit if he is not satisfied that the proposed operation of the payload is in New Zealand's national interest.
6. Prior to the OSHAA, the [contract with Rocket Lab](#) allowed the Government to veto the launch of any payload that it determined was contrary to New Zealand law, regulations or policy, was contrary to New Zealand's international obligations or would prejudice New Zealand's national security or other national interests. Every payload launched by Rocket Lab under the contract was assessed against these interests.

Date Granted	Authorisation Number	Payload Name	Owner or Operator	Country of Origin
18 April 2019	180047-PPT	Flock-4e	Planet Labs Inc.	United States



**NEW ZEALAND
SPACE AGENCY**



**NEW ZEALAND
SPACE AGENCY**

PAYLOAD PERMIT

180 047-PPT

I, Hon David Parker, as Minister for Economic Development, acting pursuant to section 17 of the Outer Space and High-altitude Activities Act 2017 grant a Payload Permit to:

Planet Labs Inc.

Planet Labs Inc. is authorised to launch and operate 14 Doves, for the purpose of Remote Sensing.

This permit will take effect upon signature, and will expire if there ceases to be a United States authorisation for the payload.

This permit is granted subject to the Outer Space and High-altitude Activities Act 2017 and all regulations under the Act, and the conditions of the permit.

18 APR 2019

Dated

Hon David Parker
Minister for Economic Development

